(b) if not, the action plan of Government to deal with it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Modern latest engines are expected to be deployed on certain selected sections only as per needs. However, even on such selected sections, the infrastructure *e.g.* Track, Bridges, Signals and Telecommunication etc., may need major upgradation, if full potential of these modern latest engines, is to be realized.

Such upgradation, is a costly activity and is normally planned and executed at a time when infrastructure replacement works are undertaken next. Such replacements are on age-cum-condition basis and their execution depends upon availability of funds. However, whenever such replacements are undertaken, modern infrastructure, as per route classification and annual traffic density etc. is adopted.

Till such time, required infrastructure is available, the rolling stocks, *e.g.* engines, wagons etc., including the modern latest engines, are allowed to be run at such maximum speeds and under such conditions, as are considered safe for the available infrastructure including track.

VIP Gate at New Delhi Railway Station

†1132. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the VIP Gate at Estate Entry Road at New Delhi Railway Station has been closed and locked;

(b) whether it is also a fact that VIPs are facing problems due to the closure of the gate; and

(c) if so, whether he will consider the matter of keeping the gate open for 24 hours to facilitate entry and exit of VIPs as well as the lebelled vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. VIP Gate remains open from 9.15 hours to 10.15 hours in the morning and 17.30 hours to 18.30 hours in the evening.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The gate is not kept open round the clock to restrict the entry of unauthorized people using it as a thoroughfare. However, the gate is always opened to facilitate entry and exit of VIPs on receipt of advance information regarding their movement.

MoU for Fast Track Rail Connections

1133. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways and their French counterparts recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding for developing fast track rail connections between Mumbai-Ahmedabad and Chennai-Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when fast trains on these tracks would be commissioned; and

(d) the names of other tracks in the country which would be taken up for similar development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote cooperation in the Railway Sector has been signed on 30th January, 2004 between the Ministry of Railways, Government of India and the French National Railways (SNCF). The MoU is generic in nature and envisages development of rail related projects in which both parties may have a mutual interest. Development of High Speed Rail Corridor has not yet been specifically identified for cooperation.

Compensation to Godhra train victims

1134. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 155 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th July, 2004 and state the names and addresses of passengers who are paid compensation by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): The names and addresses of the passengers who have been paid compensation, is as under:—